

SCIENCE AT ACADIA.

At the time of the founding of this college in 1838, science was not deemed an essential part of a liberal education. In the first curriculum provision was made for Classics, Mathematics, Moral Philosophy, Logic Rhetoric and Natural Philosophy. In the first year little was done in the latter subject, but on October 2nd, 1839 an addition was made to the staff that was to give a great impetus to the study of Sciences. This was Isaac Chipman, B. A. of Waterville College, Me., who was to have charge of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. Prof. Chipman was born in Cornwallis, July 17th, 1817. In June, 1829 he went to Horton Academy and entered upon the usual Classical Course. He early acquired a knowledge of Latin and Greek and even began Hebrew in his 18th year. He became assistant teacher in 1834, but continued his studies and was so far advanced that when he went to Waterville in June 1837 he was admitted to the Junior year. He was graduated in 1839 and at once resumed work at Wolfville.

Here he spent the remainder of his industrious life. He soon began the collection of minerals and the investigation of geological phenomena and his ardor in these pursuits increased with his knowledge. He made yearly excursions to Blomidon and was able to secure large and valuable collections of minerals, for at that time the region had not been so thoroughly gleaned as now. By exchange he obtained representative minerals from different parts of the world, so that the collection in the old college building was at the time of its destruction by fire in 1877 one of the best in the Province. It will be difficult ever to replace the beautiful amethyst geodes, and fine crystals of zeolites that went to ashes on that memorable Sunday evening. Under his direction apparatus was obtained for illustrating the principles of Natural Philosophy and for performing some chemical experiments, but the latter were never given due prominence till the appointment of Prof. Elder.

Prof. Chipman was an indefatigable worker, though his remuneration was very inadequate. He loved Acadia with his whole heart and gladly gave, not only his time, but his means to its support. He made the science work at this institution equal, if not superior to that of any college in the province, while at the same time caring for other subjects and giving a large share of his time to the general welfare of the institution. For an account of his other services as well as